Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims:

1. – 16. (canceled)

17. (new) A method for determining accuracy of a classifier that classified an item in a hierarchy of categories, the method comprising:

assigning a first indication to each category in the hierarchy to which the item actually belongs;

assigning a second indication to each category in the hierarchy to which the item actually does not belong;

assigning a third indication to each category in the hierarchy that the classifier selected for the item;

assigning a fourth indication to each category in the hierarchy that the classifier did not select for the item; and

evaluating the first, second, third, and fourth indications to determine an accuracy of the classifier that classified the item in the hierarchy of categories.

18. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the accuracy provides an indication of a degree of correctness rendered by the classifier in classifying the item.

19. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the accuracy provides a measure between a true classification of the item in the hierarchy and classification of the item rendered by the classifier.

20. (new) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

providing a numerical range to indicate accuracy of the classifier;

combining the first, second, third, and fourth indications to determine a numerical value within the numerical range to indicate the accuracy of the classifier.

21. (new) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

assigning the first indication to all ancestors of a category that are assigned a first indication.

22. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein evaluating the first, second, third, and fourth indications further comprises counting the first, second, third, and fourth indications.

23. (new) The method of claim 17 further comprising:

assigning an indifferent indication to each category in the hierarchy that does not contribute to a measure of accuracy of the classifier.

24. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein evaluating the first, second, third, and fourth indications further comprises:

determining a first tendency of the classifier to put the item in more categories than the item actually belongs;

determining a second tendency of the classifier to put the item in less categories than the item actually belongs.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 further comprising:

averaging the first and second tendencies to obtain the accuracy of the classifier.

26. (new) The method of claim 24 further comprising:

combining the first and second tendencies with a harmonic mean to obtain the accuracy of the classifier.

27. (new) A method, comprising:

assigning a first indication to each category in a hierarchy to which an item actually belongs;

assigning a second indication to each category in the hierarchy to which the item actually does not belong;

classifying, with a classifier, the item in categories in the hierarchy;

assigning a third indication to each category in the hierarchy that the classifier selected for the item;

assigning a fourth indication to each category in the hierarchy that the classifier did not select for the item; and

combining the first, second, third, and fourth indications to determine a degree of correctness rendered by the classifier in classifying the item in the hierarchy.

28. (new) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

assigning the first indication as being true;

assigning the second indication as being false;

assigning the third indication as being positive;

assigning the fourth indication as being negative.

29. (new) The method of claim 27 further comprising:

assigning the first indication to each category in the hierarchy to which a second item actually belongs;

assigning the second indication to each category in the hierarchy to which the second item actually does not belong;

classifying, with the classifier, the second item in categories in the hierarchy;

assigning the third indication to each category in the hierarchy that the classifier selected for the second item;

assigning the fourth indication to each category in the hierarchy that the classifier did not select for the second item; and

combining the first, second, third, and fourth indications for the item with the first, second, third, and fourth indications for the second item to determine a measure of accuracy of the classifier in classifying items in the hierarchy.

30. (new) A method, comprising:

assigning a true indication to at least a first category in a hierarchy to which an item actually belongs;

assigning a false indication to at least a second category in the hierarchy to which the item actually does not belong;

classifying, with a classifier, the item in the first category to obtain a first indication;

classifying, with the classifier, the item in the second category to obtain a second indication; and

comparing the true and false indications with the first and second indications to determine a degree of correctness rendered by the classifier in classifying the item in the hierarchy.